

CALIFORNIA INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

1001 I STREET, ROOM 106
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
PHONE: (916) 322-8181 • FAX: (916) 445-7124 •



February 28, 2007

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Rocky Carlisle,
Executive Officer

The Honorable Dave Jones
Assemblyman, Ninth District
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0001

Dear Assemblyman Jones:

I am writing on behalf of the Inspection and Maintenance Review Committee (IMRC) to express our support for Assembly Bill 616 (AB616). This bill implements a recommendation made by IMRC in its 2006 report on Smog Check.

If AB616 becomes law, owners of older model-year vehicles will be required to have their vehicle inspected annually to ensure that vehicle emissions control systems are working as designed.

The joint report issued by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) and the Air Resources Board (ARB) entitled *April 2004 Evaluation of the California Enhanced Vehicle Inspection (Smog Check)* dated September 2005, clearly identifies the need for such a statutory change. The report indicates that the overall average failure rate for Smog Check was 16 percent in 2002 while vehicles 15 years old had approximately 30 percent failure rate. In addition, the failure rate increases to 40 percent for early-1980 model-year vehicles.

Another source of data that validates the need for this statutory change is analysis performed by Sierra Research Inc., under state contract. They conducted analysis on roadside Smog Check inspection data that indicates that 40 percent of vehicles that fail a Smog Check, receive repairs, and subsequently receive a Smog Check certification, fail the Smog Check again within 6 months of the original event. These failing vehicles are then driven for another 18 months with failing emission control systems which adds to smog problems in urbanized areas of the state.

Implementation of AB616 will reduce emissions of hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen by approximately 21 tons per day by 2014.

We look forward to supporting your efforts to gain legislative approval. Should you make any changes to the bill, we will reassess the bill as amended. Our endorsement applies to the bill as introduced. If we can assist you or your staff as this bill progresses through the Legislature, please contact our Executive Officer, Rocky Carlisle at (916) 322-8249. Thank you for your efforts to help clean the air and improve the environment for all Californians.

Sincerely,

Judith Lamare
Acting Chair